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of North Malabar had been affected by such orders. The Government examined the representations. The Government considered that while it was open to the Collector to suggest such addtional provisions as are necessary for the protection of the forests for being embodied in the rules made under the Act, the rules as they stand at the time the applications are received should be adhered to in disposing of the applications. They have accordingly instructed the Collector to dispose of the applications in accordance with the rules, as they stand at present. The Government have not received any report on the enforced unemployment caused consequent on the rejection of licences to timber merchants, except representations to the effect that by such wholesale rejection of permits the timber economy of North Malabar had been affected and that it had resulted in unemployment. There is therefore no such report to be placed on the table of the House."

* 877 *Q*.—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :— Will the Hon the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many applications for renewal of licence for felling timber were received by the Collector of Malabar in 1954;

(*b*) how many were granted and how many refused; and

(*c*) the number of such applications received and sanctioned in 1952 and 1953?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" (*a*) 262.

" (*b*) Granted 196.

Refused 66.

	1952.	1953.
" (c) Number of applications recei ed.	195	164
Number of applications sanctioned.	146	127 "

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" May I know on which date the representations were received and on which date the orders were passed? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" I cannot give the exact date of receipt of the representations. Orders were passed, I think, in about two or three weeks. I can only give a rough idea."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" What was the main contention of the Collector of Malabar in refusing to grant the permits to three or four merchants? What steps do the Government propose to take to implement the recommendations of the Collector with regard to the preservation of the forest wealth in Malabar which is being indiscriminately destroyed by certain categories of privileged merchants due to the defect in the rules? "

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THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" The Collector of Malabar was Chief Conservator of Forests also. So, he was very much interested in keeping the forests in a good state. He passed certain orders. But those orders were contrary to the rules then prevalent. He insisted that only trees of the girth of 10 feet at the breast should be cut. But the rules prescribe that a tree having a girth of 5 feet could be cut. All along that was the practice followed. The merchants, and others had entered into contractual relations already on that basis. That was why the Government passed orders that the existing rules should prevail. But if a change of the rules is required, proper steps will be taken for that purpose."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Is it not a fact that after the passing of the Government Order, the Collector immediately took leave and that it was his successors that had to implement that order? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" There is no connection between the Government Order and the Collector taking leave. It is just like the coincidence in the crow sitting on the palmyra tree and the fruit falling."

SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE :—" With reference to the answer to question No. 877, may I know if out of the number of applications for renewal of licence granted, how many are for clearfelling and how many for selection felling? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" I cannot give that information to-day, without notice."

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY :—" The acclaimed policy of the Government being aflorestation and not denudation of forests, may I know why in this case, especially contrary to the recommendation of the Collector, permission has been granted to these people to fell trees? "

9–30 a.m. THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" There was a misunderstanding of the the existing rules. Therefore, the order had to be revised. If new rules are framed, then they will be followed."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" May I know whether the Government were satisfied about the *bona fide* of the order of the Collector and were they not supporting vested interests when they have granted applications from three or four big merchants? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" It is not a question of *bona fide* or not. It is a question of the interpretation of the rules. The interpretation was wrongly done and now the Government have corrected it. If other rules are framed, they will be enforced."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I will take five more minutes and finish the rest of the questions."

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Mental Hospital, Kozhikode

* 878 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to provide electric supply to the Government Mental Hospital at Kozhikode, Malabar?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The Government considered the question of electrification of the Government Mental Hospital, Kozhikode, but the same was deferred on financial grounds. However, the question of providing two plug connections in the Government Mental Hospital, Kozhikode, for giving electric shock theraphy to the patients, is now under the active consideration of the Government."

House-sites for Harijans in Tanjore

* 879 Q.—SRI A. K. SUBBIAH : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many Harijans have applied for the grant of house-sites in Tanjore district in 1954; and

(*b*) how many out of them have been granted sites?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (*a*) 950.

" (*b*) 410."

Government paddy godowns

* 880 Q.—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government have decided to close down the Government godowns stocking paddy;

(*b*) the total number of staff, likely to be retrenched as a result of closing down the godowns in each district; and

(*c*) what steps the Government propose to take for absorbing the retrenched staff in other Government departments?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) A statement [a] showing the details of the staff sanctioned in respect of the godowns in each district is placed on the table of the House. It is not possible to say how much of the staff will be actually sent away. The Government of India are taking over the godown staff to the extent possible along with the transfer of stocks. All other temporary employees will be retrenched from the Department following the closure of the godowns.

" (*c*) As already stated the Government of India are taking over the staff to the extent possible. The other retrenched staff can avail themselves of the various concessions granted by this Government and the Central Government for absorption in other Departments."

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[a] Printed as Appendix on pages 446–447 infra.